

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 14, 2018

Agenda Item: Lisk Creek Headwaters Conservation Easement (R7)

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

FWP proposes to pursue a conservation easement (CE) on 972 acres of deeded land in Dawson County. Located at the headwaters of the South Fork of Lisk Creek, the proposed CE comprises native shrub grasslands, riparian areas with woody cover, and interspersed small crop fields (5-40 acres). The property provides excellent year-round habitat for upland game birds, white-tailed and mule deer, and has value for a wide variety of nongame species, especially migratory passerines. The property is an adequate size and ideal mix of habitats for upland game birds. The anticipated funding source for the Lisk Creek Headwaters Conservation Easement would be primarily Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program funds. The property has provided around 300 hunter-days of opportunity annually for the last several years—a truly impressive number considering its size, and a testament to the quality of habitat on the parcel.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

FWP has not sought any public comment at this time. Upon endorsement from the Commission, FWP would conduct appropriate negotiations, analysis, and public review processes.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Proposed Action: Pursue the Lisk Creek Headwaters Conservation Easement to conserve an important property for wildlife and provide perpetual public recreational access while keeping the land in private ownership.

No Action alternative: FWP would forgo the opportunity to conserve and enhance valuable wildlife habitats with a willing private land partner. Wildlife habitats on the property may change through time to be less productive and there would be no guarantee of public access in the future.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends endorsement by the Commission, allowing FWP to proceed with further development of this conservation opportunity. A conservation easement would help ensure continued management for wildlife habitat productivity and public access.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Commission endorse FWP's proposal to negotiate the Lisk Creek Headwaters Conservation Easement and complete associated due diligence and analysis.